

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAGU 04762 072108Z

66

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01

/117 W

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O 072030Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3064

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 4762

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR HO ES NU

SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR-HONDURAS DISPUTE

REF: STATE 239640

1. GON GENERAL SOMOZA TALKED WITH NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR SEVILLA SACASA IN WASHINGTON BY TELEPHONE AT APPROXIMATELY 11:30 PM DECEMBER 6. SOMOZA REPORTED TO ME AFTER EXTENDED CONVERSATION WITH NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR THAT BATRES HAD VISITED SEVILLA SACASA DURING BATRES VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND HAD "ADMITTED" TO HIM THAT HE HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT OF "ARBITRATION" AT THE MEXICO CITY MEETINGS WHICH HAD HAD THE VERY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE DISCUSSIONS OF WHICH THE DEPT AND THE EMBASSY ARE AWARE. SOMOZA INSTRUCTED SEVILLA SACASA TO TAKE ACTION DECEMBER 7 TO OBTAIN A 30 DAY EXTENSION OF THE NEGOTIATING PERIOD CALLED FOR BY THE PEACE COMMISSION OF WHICH SEVILLA SACASA IS CHAIRMAN FROM DECEMBER 15 TO JANUARY 15 IN ORDER TO GIVE SOMOZA ADDITIONAL TIME TO HOPEFULLY ARRANGE A PERSONAL MEETING BETWEEN HONDURAN GENERAL LOPEZ AND EL SALVADOR-

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IAN PRESIDENT MOLINA. SEVILLA SACASA INDICATED THAT IN LINE WITH

THIS INSTRUCTION HE COULD OBTAIN AN IMMEDIATE REQUEST FROM SALVADORIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THIS 30 DAY EXTENSION ON WHICH PEACE COMMISSION COULD TAKE FAVORABLE ACTION.

2. SOMOZA POINTED OUT TO ME THAT IN VIEW OF THE "HOPEFULLY TEMPORARY" HESITANCY ON THE PART OF GEN LOPEZ AND HIS (SOMOZA'S) VISIT TO MEXICO, DEC 13, IT WAS USEFUL FOR HIM TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME IN WHICH TO ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT THE DESIRED ARRANGEMENTS. SOMOZA FULLY RECOGNIZED POSSIBLE DESIRE OF EL SALVADOR TO POSSIBLY AVOID COMMITMENTS PRIOR TO MARCH ELECTIONS BUT BELIEVES FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT MOLINA THAT THERE IS EQUAL POSSIBILITY THAT MOLINA IS ANXIOUS TO SETTLE THIS MATTER AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS AS FAR AS TIMING IN ORDER TO REACH A SETTLEMENT WILL PROBABLY OUTWEIGHT ELECTION COMPLICATIONS.

3. I ASSUME THAT IF EXTENSION IS OBTAINED AS SOMOZA HAS SUGGESTED, THAT DEPT WOULD DESIRE AT MOST, ONLY LOW KEY STATEMENT REGARDING PROGRESS ON DECEMBER 15, IF THIS COULD BE OBTAINED. THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT ANY STATEMENT GIVEN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERICS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT BEST BE DEFERRED UNTIL MORE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS CAN BE ANNOUNCED. MY CONCERN IS THAT LOCAL PRESS IN TWO COUNTRIES MAY PUSH EXTREMELY HARD TO GET DETAILS AND SPECIFICS OF WHAT HAS AND HAS NOT BEEN AGREED UPON AND IT WOULD APPEAR MORE PRUDENT TO AVOID THIS LIKELIHOOD IN CURRENT ATMOSPHERE. IF JOINT DECLARATION IS MADE, WOULD STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT PRIOR AGREEMENT BE REACHED BETWEEN TWO PARTIES THAT NO DETAILS OF AGREEMENT OR LACK OF AGREEMENT WOULD BE DISCUSSED UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS FINALIZED.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS.
SHELTON

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